

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DODE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /113 W

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P 121740Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3693

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PARTICIPANT IN MARCH 14 REINFORCED NAC MEETING

REF: USNATO 1331

1. FOREIGN OFFICE HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT BECAUSE OF SEVERE NECK INJURY, RESULTING FROM FALL FROM HORSE, AMBASSADOR DUCCI WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ITALIAN PARTICIPANT IN MARCH 14 REINFORCED NAC MEETING. DUCCI HAS UNDERGONE AN EMERGENCY OPERATION AND, WHILE HE IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY, WILL BE OUT OF COMMISSION FOR SOME TIME.

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2. WITH RESPECT TO THE MARCH 14 NAC, SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA WOULD NORMALLY BE THE ITALIAN CHOICE TO REPLACE DUCCI, BUT HIS SERVICES WILL BE REQUIRED IN ITALY DURING JOBERT'S VISIT MARCH 14-16. ITALIAN REP WILL THEREFORE BE MINISTER WALTER GARDINI, VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DUCCI'S ABSENCE WILL NOT BE MISINTERPRETED. HE ASKED THAT WE STRESS SERIOUSNESS OF DUCCI'S INJURY AND EXPLAIN REQUIREMENT FOR GAJA TO BE IN ITALY TO BACKSTOP FOREIGN MINISTER MORO DURING JOBERT'S STAY. IT IS CLEAR THAT ITALIANS WERE MOST RELUCTANT TO HAVE TO DROP BELOW POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL, BUT THEIR THIN STAFFING PATTERN GAVE THEM NO CHOICE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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